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# LIVESTOCK RAISING *in* LOUISIANA



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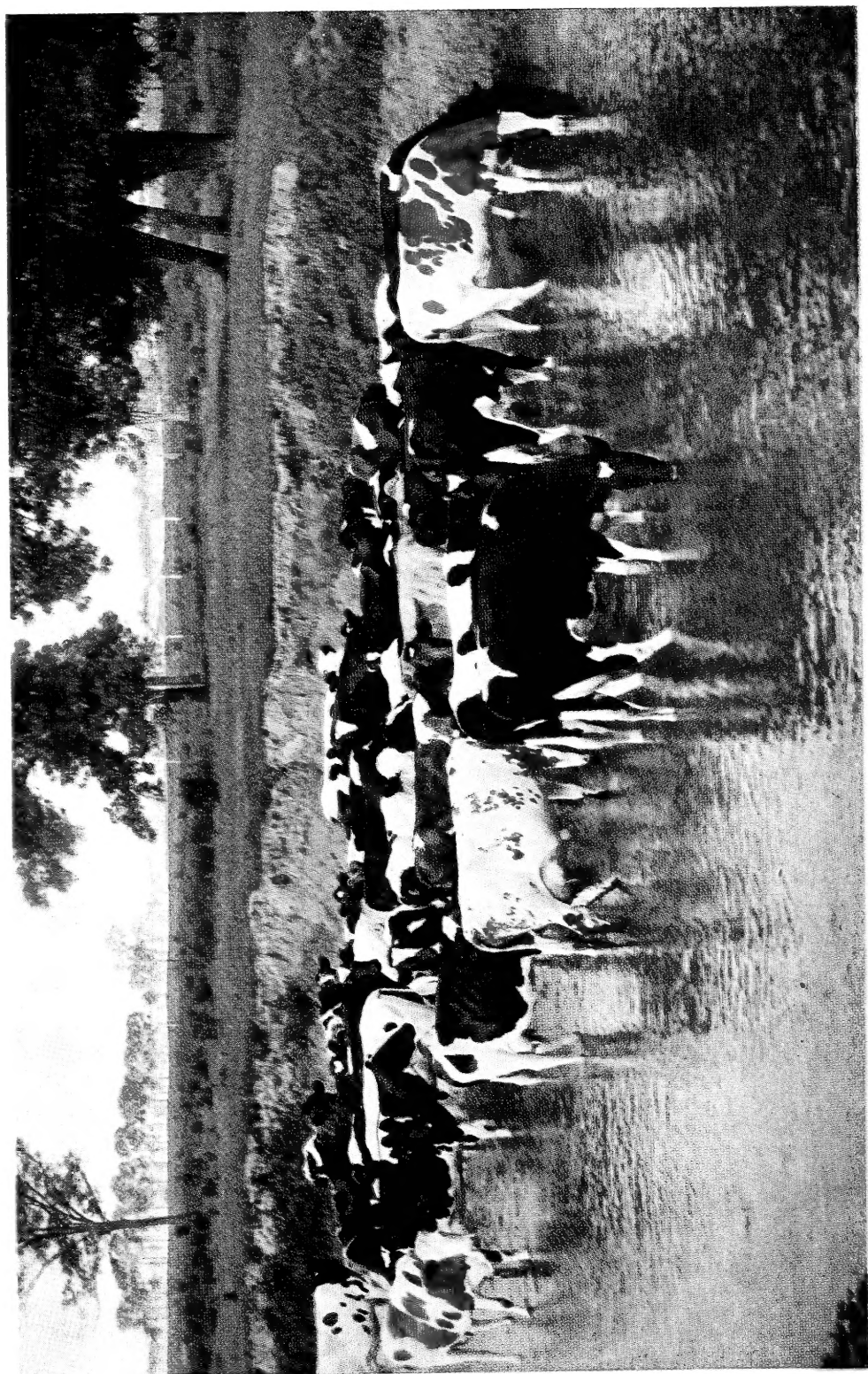












# LIVE STOCK RAISING IN LOUISIANA

*By*

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Commissioner of Agriculture and Immigration  
Louisiana State Board of Agriculture and Immigration

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# LIVE STOCK RAISING IN LOUISIANA

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S food is the basic essential of human life, the agricultural industry, of which meat production is a most important branch, must always overshadow every other field of human effort.

The subject of the diminishing meat food supply was analyzed at the American Packers' Convention prior to the European War, by the following comparisons of the changes in population and changes in meat supply of the principal meat-eating countries of the world, covering a period of ten years:

	Population Increased	Cattle Increased
Austria-Hungary.....	10%	2%
France.....	2%	3%
United Kingdom.....	10%	6%
Germany.....	16%	9%
		Decreased
Russia.....	14%	5%
United States.....	20%	4.6%
Argentina.....	40%	11%

Statistics issued by the United States Government show that during the period of ten years preceding the European War the prices of beef animals in the countries enumerated showed the following changes:

	Price Increased
Austria-Hungary.....	33.3%
France.....	10.8%
United Kingdom.....	20.4%
Germany.....	32.8%

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	Price Increased
Russia . . . . .	35.6%
United States . . . . .	74.7%
Argentina . . . . .	101.0%

The European War has since decimated the herds of Europe, and drawn heavily upon the supply of the whole world. The conditions that were already bad, therefore, are now infinitely worse.

Live stock raising is primarily an agricultural problem, and it is merely an incident that the forage crops and grasses are converted into cattle and hogs as the finished product.

Climate and soil are the factors that enter into the production of agricultural products, and therefore into the production of live stock.

As Louisiana possesses the most favored climate and most fertile soil of any section of the United States, it is to this section above all others that the attention of the live stock world is now turned.

A few facts and figures regarding this commonwealth, therefore, may not be amiss, in a brief review of conditions directly pertaining to the live stock industry:

The State of Louisiana has an area of 48,720 square miles, and a population of 1,656,388.

Louisiana is larger than the combined areas of Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, whose total area is 47,685 square miles, and total population 7,307,978.

Louisiana is larger than Ohio, with Delaware and Rhode Island thrown in, the area of these states being 44,360 square miles, and the population 5,512,053.

Louisiana is larger than Pennsylvania, which has 45,215 square miles, and 7,655,111 population.

Comparisons show, therefore, that Louisiana has a lower ratio of population to its area than any of the states enumerated.

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Louisiana, before the Civil War, was the wealthiest section of the Union. In 1860 farm property in the state, according to the government census, was valued at \$247,984,000. Then came the war, and in 1870 this value had dropped to \$73,043,000.

During the war the flower of the manhood perished, capital was destroyed, and for a long period afterward the fields were deserted, and rich lands worth millions of dollars went to waste.

While the resources of nearly every state in the Union have been developed, at one time or another, by capital brought in from other localities, it is a notable fact that Louisiana has been dependent upon the capital created within its own borders. It is an equally interesting fact that the wealth of the people of Louisiana has been derived almost entirely from the rich agricultural lands.

While the population of the United States as a whole has increased about 192 per cent during the last fifty years, the population of Louisiana has increased only about 134 per cent within the same period; this difference being caused by the lack of colonization.

During the past half century the United States Government has made prodigal gifts from the public domain to encourage colonization west of the Mississippi River, including vast grants of land to induce the building of railroads; the railroads, in turn, have advertised those lands throughout the entire country, which has resulted in the West becoming widely known and its lands generally settled.

During the time the Western States were being advertised and colonized, no effort was made to advertise Louisiana; and the advantages of this state are now but little known to the outside world—yet it is the premier section of the United States, for corn, cotton, sugar-cane, and grazing.

Notwithstanding the large fortunes made in the cultiva-

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tion of sugar-cane and cotton, the progressive men of Louisiana have long recognized the great advantages from diversified farming, and this has resulted in corn becoming the principal crop of the state, and live stock an industry of tremendous value and importance.

Prof. Willis L. Moore, while Chief of the United States Weather Bureau, said:

"Probably the most important feature of climate, as affecting both animal and vegetable life, is the temperature. The average crop season in the North is limited to a period of little more than one hundred days. On the other hand, the State of Louisiana has a long period of crop growth—more than three hundred days in the southern portion.

"This long period of crop growth permits the cultivation of nearly every variety of agricultural product; and not only one, but frequently two or three different crops may be secured from the same soil in a single year."

The climate of Louisiana is salubrious, with plentiful and well-distributed rainfall. The following tabulation from the reports of the United States Department of Agriculture Weather Bureau for a year, showing the records at important stations in the states enumerated, indicates the advantages of this area in both temperature and rainfall, as compared with the leading meat-producing states of the North—Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska:

	JANUARY				
	Highest Tempera- ture	Lowest Tempera- ture	Mean Tempera- ture	Total Rainfall Inches	Number of Cloudy Days
Louisiana.....	79°	35°	59.3°	5.13	11
Illinois.....	56°	3°	30.6°	3.55	19
Indiana.....	59°	20°	35.1°	7.63	19
Iowa.....	48°	-15°	19.6°	1.38	9
Kansas.....	61°	4°	31.2°	0.30	10
Missouri.....	68°	1°	29.8°	3.25	14
Nebraska.....	63°	-11°	24.0°	0.31	11

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## FEBRUARY

	Highest Tempera- ture	Lowest Tempera- ture	Mean Tempera- ture	Total Rainfall Inches	Number of Cloudy Days
Louisiana.....	78°	30°	54.3°	3.17	8
Illinois.....	64°	0°	26.8°	1.35	14
Indiana.....	65°	—1°	27.4°	1.85	11
Iowa.....	60°	—10°	19.6°	0.41	7
Kansas.....	70°	—1°	28.9°	0.52	12
Missouri.....	69°	—3°	25.8°	1.77	14
Nebraska.....	72°	—6°	23.0°	0.09	10

## MARCH

Louisiana.....	86°	34°	61.0°	0.88	8
Illinois.....	70°	0°	37.9°	5.55	18
Indiana.....	71°	4°	39.4°	7.76	11
Iowa.....	62°	—14°	30.5°	3.70	8
Kansas.....	80°	—2°	39.3°	0.88	17
Missouri.....	76°	—2°	38.2°	5.95	14
Nebraska.....	72°	—7°	35.6°	1.55	12

## APRIL

Louisiana.....	89°	40°	67.6°	3.97	3
Illinois.....	83°	34°	53.6°	3.55	9
Indiana.....	78°	31°	52.0°	3.01	12
Iowa.....	84°	26°	49.8°	1.48	6
Kansas.....	88°	34°	57.3°	3.18	15
Missouri.....	88°	30°	54.7°	3.22	10
Nebraska.....	87°	30°	53.7°	2.46	9

## MAY

Louisiana.....	92°	55°	74.2°	5.33	7
Illinois.....	95°	34°	65.0°	0.96	11
Indiana.....	87°	38°	63.7°	1.49	12
Iowa.....	86°	33°	58.4°	6.21	11
Kansas.....	99°	40°	67.1°	5.80	12
Missouri.....	99°	38°	65.0°	2.11	14
Nebraska.....	98°	40°	63.0°	6.02	13



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### JUNE

	Highest Tempera- ture	Lowest Tempera- ture	Mean Tempera- ture	Total Rainfall Inches	Number of Cloudy Days
Louisiana.....	98°	58°	80.0°	4.86	7
Illinois.....	100°	41°	76.2°	1.84	6
Indiana.....	97°	42°	74.2°	2.35	6
Iowa.....	96°	36°	70.4°	1.38	3
Kansas.....	98°	46°	75.5°	1.66	10
Missouri.....	104°	41°	76.6°	2.17	4
Nebraska.....	99°	43°	74.0°	2.27	5

### JULY

Louisiana.....	98°	69°	82.0°	1.44	11
Illinois.....	103°	56°	80.0°	1.66	3
Indiana.....	102°	54°	77.9°	3.88	2
Iowa.....	100°	51°	75.0°	1.84	2
Kansas.....	103°	61°	82.0°	2.07	6
Missouri.....	104°	56°	79.8°	2.77	12
Nebraska.....	109°	54°	81.0°	1.95	3

### AUGUST

Louisiana.....	98°	68°	82.8°	6.92	8
Illinois.....	101°	57°	79.9°	2.88	4
Indiana.....	96°	57°	76.3°	4.98	5
Iowa.....	97°	46°	74.6°	1.66	2
Kansas.....	105°	57°	85.0°	0.49	1
Missouri.....	109°	51°	82.4°	2.20	4
Nebraska.....	107°	54°	82.6°	0.31	4

### SEPTEMBER

Louisiana.....	97°	51°	77.6°	15.50	15
Illinois.....	99°	36°	67.8°	3.41	14
Indiana.....	96°	37°	66.0°	3.02	15
Iowa.....	100°	29°	63.6°	4.58	8
Kansas.....	102°	30°	69.5°	4.03	13
Missouri.....	105°	35°	67.8°	7.17	14
Nebraska.....	103°	34°	67.4°	3.30	9

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### OCTOBER

	Highest Tempera- ture	Lowest Tempera- ture	Mean Tempera- ture	Total Rainfall Inches	Number of Cloudy Days
Louisiana.....	92°	37°	67.2°	8.50	15
Illinois.....	82°	25°	53.6°	3.61	13
Indiana.....	85°	29°	55.0°	2.73	14
Iowa.....	79°	15°	49.0°	4.28	7
Kansas.....	85°	22°	55.2°	5.93	10
Missouri.....	85°	22°	52.6°	2.59	13
Nebraska.....	84°	15°	50.9°	0.70	8

### NOVEMBER

Louisiana.....	86°	33°	66.0°	2.71	10
Illinois.....	75°	23°	49.2°	4.49	14
Indiana.....	73°	20°	47.6°	6.20	20
Iowa.....	69°	13°	42.7°	2.31	12
Kansas.....	74°	22°	50.8°	2.55	12
Missouri.....	78°	19°	49.2°	3.31	15
Nebraska.....	72°	19°	46.4°	2.43	11

### DECEMBER

Louisiana.....	80°	32°	54.2°	3.21	9
Illinois.....	58°	21°	37.8°	0.77	18
Indiana.....	58°	16°	37.2°	0.49	19
Iowa.....	54°	10°	32.2°	1.00	12
Kansas.....	60°	10°	37.3°	3.75	16
Missouri.....	68°	16°	36.0°	2.40	19
Nebraska.....	54°	6°	33.5°	4.03	11

It is interesting to note a comparison with Argentina, which ranks as the best stock-raising area outside of the United States, and is in the same latitude south as Louisiana is north.

Argentina, although possessing an ideal climate as to temperature, suffers at intervals from destructive droughts which injure the forage crops and therefore the live stock industry; whereas the records of a century show that Louisiana enjoys a never-failing and abundant rainfall,

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well distributed throughout the year, attributable to the proximity to the Gulf of Mexico, and to innumerable lakes, rivers and bayous, including its 4,794 miles of navigable waterways.

The alluvial soil of Louisiana, moreover, is incomparably more fertile than the lands of Argentina.

To quote Prof. S. A. Knapp, of the United States Department of Agriculture:

"It would be necessary to take the prairies of Iowa, the rugged timber lands of Maine, and the entire delta of the Nile, twist them together and thrust through them the Amazon, to produce another Louisiana."

A beneficent climate, combined with the two great natural sanitary agents, namely, frequent and abundant rainfall and abundant sunshine, assures ideal health conditions in this area.

Dr. Oscar Dowling, President of the Louisiana State Board of Health, a health authority of international reputation, in an address summed up conditions thus:

"It has been my good fortune to visit Canada and almost every state in the Union, to study in Mexico, England, France and Germany, and to travel in the other European countries, and I am sincere in saying there is, in my judgment, no more altogether desirable place, every aspect considered, and health primarily, than Louisiana, the land of the mocking-bird and the orange blossom."

Those who have not visited the alluvial areas of Louisiana cannot credit the statements concerning the marvelous fertility of the soil—the richest in the world, and almost inexhaustible.

Other sections can grow similar crops, but not in such great abundance; consequently, the cost of producing all the foods that go into raising and fattening live stock is less here than in any other territory where cattle and hogs are raised.

In the summer of 1914 a convention of editors of the

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leading agricultural and live stock journals of the North made a three weeks' tour of inspection over the State of Louisiana, as a result of which they pronounced this state superior to all others from the standpoint of natural conditions; and it may be pertinent at this time to quote a few of their remarks:

Alson Secor, editor of "Successful Farming," Des Moines, Iowa, said:

"Louisiana has the soil and climate, and many natural advantages. You can grow more per acre than we in the North. With the introduction of live stock to use the wonderful growth of vegetation, you can produce meat cheaper than any other state."

Fred Ranney, of the "Missouri and Kansas Farmer," Kansas City, Missouri, said:

"There is no place in the United States where the climate is more pleasant. There is one advantage that Louisiana has over every other state in the Union, and that advantage is contained in the richness of soil. Louisiana also comprises a field for the live stock industry that is positively unsurpassed anywhere in the country. Here, both hogs and cattle may forage all the year, because the grass is always green and new crops are ever growing. Pork and beef can be produced at a minimum cost under these circumstances."

Fred L. Petty, of the "Farm and Home," Chicago, said:

"Your reclaimed lands are the richest I have ever seen, and produce beyond anything I ever imagined possible. The live stock man can find in this state a better place than he now has to raise and fatten cattle and hogs."

B. T. Fisher, of "Farm Life," Spencer, Indiana, said:

"Your state certainly has boundless agricultural possibilities; the wonderful fertility of the soil, the equable climate and long open seasons enabling the farmer to labor on his farm almost all the year, raising several crops on one piece of land."

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A. C. Brokaw, of the "Minneapolis Tribune," said:

"No other state in the Union can hope to offer the agricultural opportunities of Louisiana."

H. E. Young, of the "Farmers' Tribune," Chicago, said:

"The wonderful fertility of the soil of Louisiana has attracted my attention more than the growing crops. To me the fertility of Louisiana soil constitutes a genuine wonder. Fertility of soil is a basic property for any agricultural commonwealth. Louisiana possesses the basic quality and quantity to a marked degree."

F. M. Higgins, of "Better Farming," Chicago, said:

"I believe that the soil and climate of Louisiana, coupled with the accumulated knowledge of our agricultural colleges and experiment stations, presents an opportunity to the farmer never equaled in the United States. I find that the agricultural productions are the most diversified of any state in the Union."

Jan Janak, of the "Hospodar," Omaha, Nebraska, said:

"I have found here the best soil I have ever seen in my life. The farmer can raise everything, from the miniature Japan clover, with its great feeding and pasturing qualities, up to the majestic pecan tree. He can take pride in raising fine horses, nationally-reputed Louisiana mules, good dairy cows, beef cattle, hogs, sheep and goats."

H. S. Groves, of the "Ranch and Range," Denver, Colorado, said:

"I was shown that these lands grow three or more crops in one year. I thought I had seen some corn-growing in such states as Missouri, Iowa and Illinois; but what I saw growing there were mere dwarfed plants, compared with the kind you grow on your soils, which produce 75 to 150 bushels per acre. Then, too, the great variety of crops that you can grow is astounding to one from the North. I was on one place where forty-three different varieties of crops were being grown."



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F. M. Kingsbury, of the "Indiana Farmer," Indianapolis, Indiana, said:

"With the fertility of Louisiana's soil and the long growing season that you have, together with the fact that such a great variety of farm crops and fruits can be grown, there seems to be no limit to the agricultural possibilities."

J. W. Jarnigan, of the "Iowa Farmer," Des Moines, Iowa, said:

"You can raise corn even better than we do in the world-famous corn belt. Corn is a wonderfully profitable crop when marketed in the form of beef and pork. There is a world shortage in meat. There is a great future for the cattle industry, and you people can produce beef cattle at about one-fourth of the expense that we people of the North can, so it is plain that there is a wonderful opportunity in Louisiana for the stock-raiser."

The whole secret of live stock raising lies in grass.

If a locality is well supplied with grass, this pasturage assures the success of the live stock industry just so long as the grass remains.

The measure of success depends upon the abundance of the grass and the period of time each year when the open pasturage enables cattle to survive and thrive.

Cattle raised on the wild grasses of the open Western range must be shipped to the corn belt—Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska—to be fattened and prepared for market.

The corn-belt states have no pasturage, as their entire growing season is devoted to the production of corn, and if they should enter the grazing field, their position would be identical with that of the Western ranges, in that they would be compelled to ship their pasture-fed cattle to some corn-raising territory where the stock could be fattened and prepared for market.

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The feeding of corn is very expensive and cannot make up for the loss of grass, which is essential.

If the Western ranges or the corn-belt states could provide abundant open pasturage throughout the year, then these states could produce live stock abundantly and cheaply, and it would not be necessary to ship from one section to another, in order to prepare for the market.

Such a transformation of climate would mean freedom from the rigors of winter, and would result in the saving of forage fed throughout the cold season—of which 30 per cent of the nutritive values goes to sustain animal heat and is therefore an economic loss.

The superabundance of all forage crops, both for grazing and ensilage, makes it possible to produce cattle and hogs in Louisiana ready for the market, more cheaply than in any other part of America.

In Evangeline, Longfellow's description of the Bayou Teche area in Louisiana contains the remarkable assertion that it is a locality "where grass grows more in a single night than during a whole Canadian summer."

John M. Parker, a leader in the public life of America, who has long been engaged in raising live stock on an extensive scale in Louisiana, and who has personally investigated the industry in every state of the Union, says:

"I do not know of a single state that produces more alfalfa, lespedeza and all of the grasses, per acre, than you can find in Louisiana, and I do not know of another state in the Union that offers better climatic conditions for raising live stock."

In this alluvial area the returns from alfalfa, lespedeza and other clovers, Bermuda, and innumerable other varieties of grasses, and from cowpeas, soy beans, velvet beans, vetch, sorghum, and other forage crops, are amazing when compared with other localities.

These forage crops may be fed in the field, or cut and made into ensilage.

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The returns are equally great from potatoes, peanuts, and so on—in fact, almost every known agricultural product is grown here with greatest success, and the area offers wider diversification of crops than is possible in any other section of the United States.

The banner food crop of the South is corn, and here almost half of the entire American production is grown.

On the rich lands of Louisiana, corn reaches the highest degree of perfection from the standpoint of rapidity of growth, quality and quantity.

One acre of Louisiana land has produced 156 bushels of corn, samples of which in competition with hundreds from all over the Union were declared by official authority to surpass in quality any other corn grown in the United States that year.

An authority has enumerated a few advantages in growing corn in Louisiana, namely:

Corn is only one of several field crops that may be grown upon the same land in the same year.

It matures quickly and is ready for market upon maturity, "sun drying" in the field.

It is ready for market two months or more before the Northern corn, thereby bringing the highest prices of the season.

It contains from 2 to 7 per cent less moisture at maturity than other corn, and is therefore worth that much more than Northern corn.

For the silo, a heavy crop, 15 tons per acre, or more, may be harvested seventy days after planting.

It has an advantage in price on the open market of 8 cents to 15 cents per bushel, because of its proximity to export markets; that is, the Chicago price and freight-cost to port of export are realized by the Louisiana grower.

Philip Rothrock, in charge of the United States Standardization Bureau at New Orleans, says:

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"Louisiana corn will grade as high as any in the United States."

A few authoritative opinions on corn-raising conditions in Louisiana may be of interest:

Prof. S. A. Hoover, Agriculturist, State Normal School of Missouri, says:

"The land is certainly first-class corn land."

Prof. J. G. Christie, Agricultural Department, Purdue University, says:

"The corn we inspected was immense. The stalks were large and as well eared as any I have ever seen."

Eugene Funk, President of the National Corn Growers' Association, says:

"The Louisiana soil is so rich in the soil foods for corn, that seed which will produce nubbins on inferior soil will make good big ears in Louisiana. An average corn crop in Louisiana in the delta country should be 100 bushels to the acre."

Prof. Perry G. Holden, of Iowa, the noted American authority on corn, says:

"The best corn land I have ever seen. It is good for 100 bushels to the acre. I have always believed that Louisiana was to be the greatest corn country in the world."

One phase of the live stock industry that may be touched upon lightly is dairying.

Among outside experts who have investigated conditions for dairying in Louisiana, is Prof. Hugh Van Pelt, the Iowa authority, who says:

"In Iowa they are now saying that it does not pay to feed live stock on land worth \$300 to \$500 per acre. If conditions are correct, however, the value of the land is a small factor.

"In Denmark, land is worth \$1,000 to \$1,500 per acre, and rents for as much as the selling price in Louisiana, and she imports her feed from this country, yet her butter wins her prosperity in the markets of the world. The Isle







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of Jersey exports annually \$400 of produce per acre, and her land is worth \$800 to \$1,700 per acre, yet she depends upon intensive farming and live stock. She buys grain and grasses in America to feed her dairy cows."

W. G. Hutton, of "Farm Progress," St. Louis, Missouri, says of Louisiana:

"Ideal for dairying for one chief reason—your long grazing season and your luxuriant grass crops."

Writing of Louisiana as he saw it during a tour of the state, H. E. Colby, of "Kimball's Dairy Farmer," Waterloo, Iowa, says:

"Here is a country that is rich in feed, that has a long grazing season, and that has every facility for successful dairying."

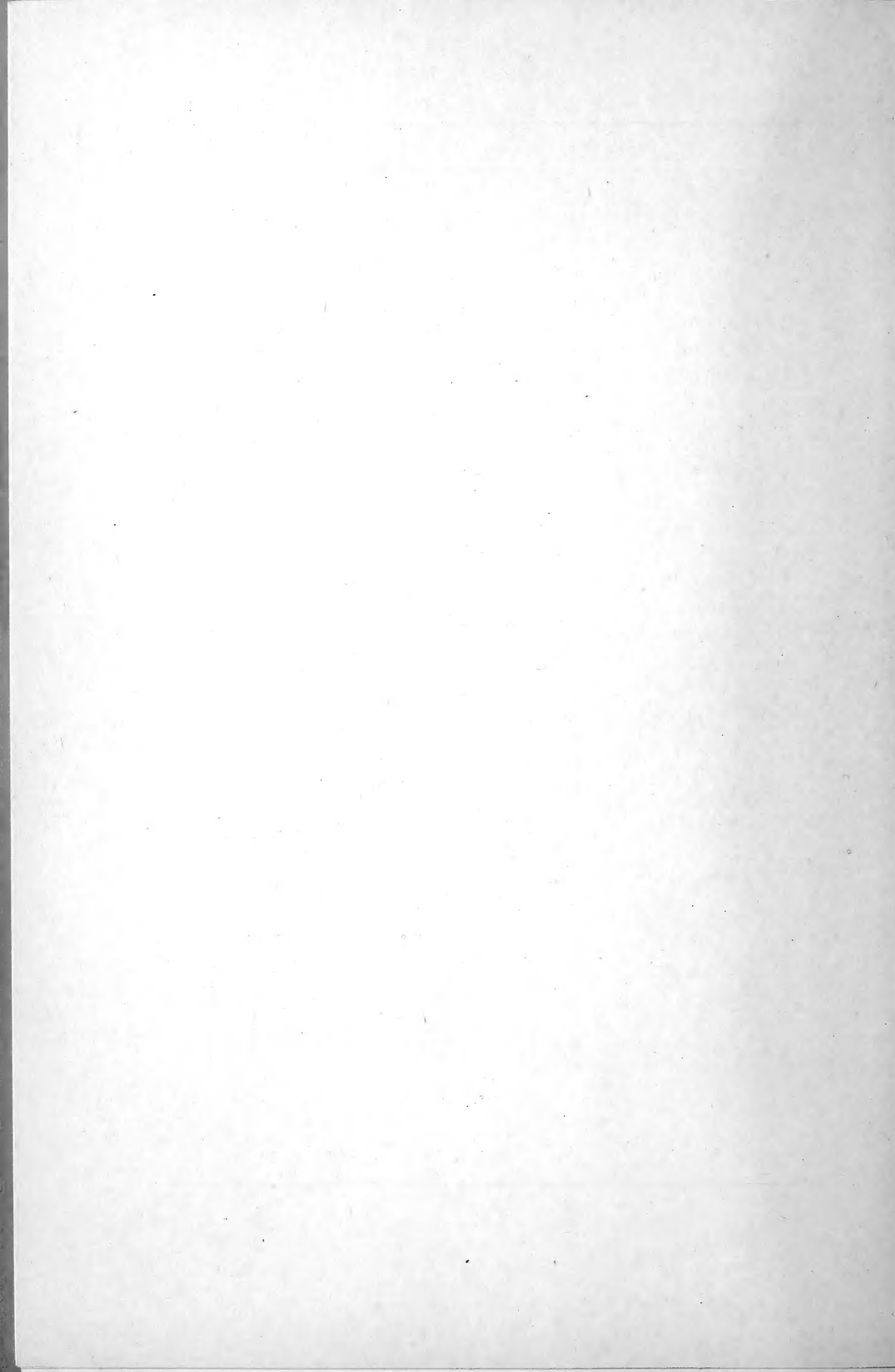
Every article used or employed by the live stock grower of Louisiana can be produced on the ground, or purchased in the immediate locality.

The Western cattle grower depends upon grass, and must send his stock to the Middle States to be prepared for market; while the Middle States feeder produces crops for fattening, but has little grass for pasturage.

In Louisiana the two are combined, making an ideal condition for raising live stock successfully at the lowest cost, and therefore at the greatest profit.

At the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, at San Francisco in 1915, Louisiana was awarded the Grand Prize for Forage Crops—corn, peas, soy beans, leguminous hays, and sweet potatoes.

Here the thousand-pound yearling-steer and the two-hundred-pound year-old pig can be made ready for the market at a cost of \$4.50 and \$3.00 per hundredweight, respectively, and yield the grower \$10 for every hundred pounds—sold on the hoof.





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